



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

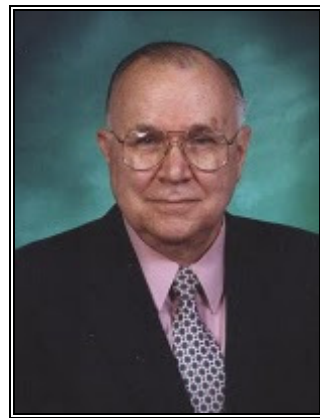
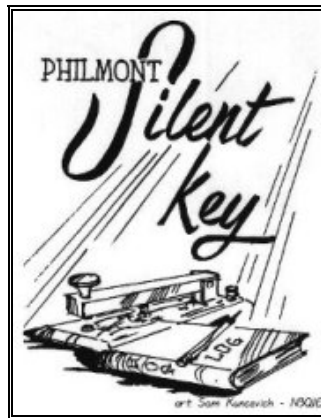
62 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2011

Volume 61 Number 3

www.phil-mont.org

March 2011

April 1, 1930 - February 22, 2011



Gene Pressler, W3ZXV

Eugene was a well-known amateur radio operator and former President of the North Penn and Delmont Radio Clubs and the Telford Area Repeater Association. He served as Assistant Director of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), and international association of radio amateurs based in Newington, CT, and formerly served as Assistant Section Manager of the League's Eastern Pennsylvania Section. In 1996, Pressler was honored by the Atlantic Division of ARRL in being chosen as the recipient of its prestigious "Amateur of the Year" award for a "lifetime of service to amateur radio". He served as Director Emeritus of the Area Repeater Coordination Council, Inc., the regional amateur radio repeater frequency coordinator for eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey, which he co founded. Gene was also a current member of the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club.

*It's time to start those antenna projects,
Spring will sproing on March 20th at 23:31 UTC!*

**Best wishes to Carmen, KE3QB for a quick recovery
Get well soon!
*Hospital food ... sheesh!***

<p><i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer.</p> <p>Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225</p> <p>Club Archivist: Gwen Patton NG3P ng3p@arrl.net 610-630-9862</p> <p>Labels and mailing: KB3IV</p> <p>Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.</p>		<p>Directors:</p> <p>W3AOK (11) WA3KIO (11) N3XKE (11) KB2ERL (12) W3STW (12) WU3I (12) ND3B (A)</p>	<p>Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW</p> <p>For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV</p>
<p>Committees</p> <p>Archives: NG3P Audit: NS3K Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV</p>		<p>Sunday Morning Net Schedules</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater 	
<p>DX: N3MT Emerg.Coor: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: N3XKE</p>		<p>Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK</p>	<p>Scholarship: W3RM Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: N3MT</p>

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**
Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KB3IV Ed Masarsky 310 Saw Mill Ln. Horsham PA 19044 kb3iv@comcast.net
Vice Pres: N3QV Eric D. Marano, PO BOX 233, Skippack PA 19474 n3qv@arrl.net
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Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez ...

Hello Phil-Mont,

It's coming, it's right around the corner, really it is. No, not that. I'm talking about spring. We had a little taste of it in February. I took advantage of the good weather and spent a few hours outside working on my mobile HF antennas and making some DX contacts from the car. I found the band to be a bit more open then it had been the last few months. Turn on your radio and make a call, you will find there are people out there waiting to make a contact.

The February club meeting had a light turnout, which is not surprising on a cold windy night. We watched a very interesting and informative video about "Using Hallicrafters amateur radios modified for the Army." It is available to watch on youtube at youtube.com/watch?v=Jps0_2adUvo. The video runs 29 minutes. Hams were not allowed to transmit on the bands during WWII, but their equipment played a vital role in wartime communications.

I just heard on the 2/20/11 Sunday net that Carmen, KE3QB, was in the hospital recuperating from a leg ailment. We all send our best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery and hope that you get back home with your family soon.

Our treasurer has informed me that dues have been coming in quite nicely, but there are a few stragglers schlepping along. Please take a moment to send off a check to P.O. Box 88, so Dick keeps his job. Good treasurers are hard to find.

We have some interesting programs scheduled for the next few club meetings. The March meeting will be an update of the world of satellite operations on amateur radio presented by our very own "Mr. Satellite." April, May and June will see more guest speakers presenting subjects, which you will find informative and helpful in the pursuit of our hobby.

I just received an email about classes for General Class Exam preparation offered by the Warminster Amateur Radio Club.

WARC will be holding General Classes starting Monday, March 7th, 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Classes are expected to run for 8 Mondays at the Ben Wilson Senior Center.

We will be using the current ARRL General class license study guide for the class. For additional information please visit their club website at k3dn.org.

I just noticed that I am going on a bit. Have to leave some room for our regular contributors to the Blurb. You don't have to be a regular to submit articles or thoughts. Our editor welcomes input from all members. Send him something; we don't want him to feel lonely.

de Ed, KB3IV

Phil-Mont Birthdays & Tidbytes

March Birthdays

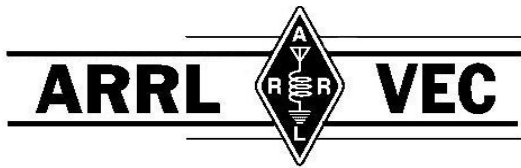
- 01 John Furlong KC2TUT
 - 02 Elaine Spencer
 - 06 Tina Furlong (XYL KC2TUT)
 - 09 Fayette Toren (XYL N2MT)
 - 13 Rosemary Canuso (XYL N2ATB)
 - 14 Dorothy Scialdone-Maresca K3YPH
- More birthdays →

21 Ben Roeshman W3LKI
21 Henry Platt W3UI
22 John Wright K3CHR

27 William Mackenzie W3RED
28 Francis A. Canuso N2ATB
29 Barbara Stein (XYL KB3AFH)
30 Robert Rose N3TWO

Membership Stats

At press time PMRC had:
92 Full Paid Members
4 Youth Members
1 Honorary Member



***This month's Thursday evening VE session
is the 24th. There is also a Saturday
morning session on the 12th at 9:00 am.***

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

From the Secretary

PMRC BoD Meeting Minutes, February 2, 2011

KB3IV began the meeting at 2010.
Attending the meeting were Ed, KB3IV; Al,
W3STW; Steve, WU3I; Eric, N3QV; Dick,
W3RM; Gene, N3XKE; Rick, ND3B; and Jen
KB3MIV.

KB3IV began the meeting by talking about
the scheduled programs for future general meetings,
which includes information on EZNEC, Antenna
Modeling Software, Satellite Update, Digital Modes
and for February we will watch, "Voice of Victory."

W3RM reviewed the finances. Membership
dues and the antenna project were reviewed. WU3I
gave the auction report. There was a new
membership application by N3BKR, Kent D.
Simmons, with an Advanced Class License. The
board voted and accepted Kent's application for
membership. Scholarship for 2011 – we are
working with the FAR (Foundation for Amateur
Radio) and there are three scholarships available
this year. In preparation for this year's Field Day
the club has secured two sites at Fort Washington
State Park in anticipation of a great turnout. KB3IV
mentioned there has been a good turnout on the HF
Nets recently. We also reviewed the status of the
repeaters. The meeting was adjourned at 2125.

PMRC General Meeting Minutes, February 9, 2011

Ed, KB3IV, called the meeting to order at
2025. There were 11 people attending, all members.

The Treasurer's report was reviewed. The
finances are in good shape. It was reported at the
meeting that there are two sites for Field Day
reserved this year. There are three scholarships for
2011 instead of one. Two of our members have
applied for the scholarships on the FAR website.
70% of the membership dues have been collected.
A new member has been approved by the Board at
the Board of Directors meeting this month, N3BKR,
Kent D. Simmons. Please welcome him when you
hear him or see him. The repeater and antenna
project was discussed. We have one main repeater
at this time. Two off sites are in the process of being
updated. Any new suggestions for any projects or
ideas for the club are always welcomed. Please let
one of the board members know. For next month's
program we will be learning about updates on
satellites. April's program will be on antenna
modeling software. May's program will be about
Digital modes. There will be a speaker for each of
these programs. The program was the video, "Voice
of Victory" a 1944 vintage World War II film. The
meeting adjourned at 2125.

de Jen, KB3MIV

Radio Stores ... 'N' More

by Bob Thomas, W3NE

THE VANISHING Tales of Horror and Intrigue

This article is in two parts: It begins with a fictional story, told in many forms by film and literature, of mysterious events that took place over a hundred years ago. The second part is a true account of something that happened with chilling similarity just last month.

Kay, a young English woman, arrived with her mother in Paris while the 1889 *Exposition Universelle* was in progress. The city overflowed with tourists who were there to attend the exhibition. Only two single rooms were still available when the English ladies registered at their hotel, so Kay took the plainest one, allowing her mother to enjoy the more elaborate room with rose-patterned silk wall covering and rich, plumb-colored velvet drapes at the windows.

They went out for dinner and when they returned Kay's mother went directly to bed because she felt ill. When Kay looked in on her later, her mother was in serious distress so a doctor was summoned. The doctor arrived with the hotel manager, and after his examination, the doctor and manager had an animated conversation in French, which neither English lady understood. The doctor said Kay's mother was gravely ill, but there was proper medicine at his office on the other side of the city. He wrote a note in French and gave it to Kay, telling her it had instructions to his nurse for the medicine and directions for a cab driver to find his office. Kay rushed to a horse-drawn cab and handed the doctor's note to the driver. He studied the note at length before starting his horses on an ambling journey. Kay was upset by their leisurely pace and became more agitated when she realized they frequently changed direction rather than following a direct path. She finally reached the doctor's office, and handed his note to his nurse. The nurse disappeared and didn't return with the medicine for over an hour. By then Kay was a wreck but, with

medicine in hand, she took the cab for another long trek back to the hotel.

At the front desk she asked the manager about her mother, but he denied knowing anything about her, stating that Kay had come into the hotel alone. The doctor also appeared confused and disclaimed any knowledge of her mother. Composing herself, Kay asked to see the hotel register, since that would show she and her mother had signed-in together. The bound register book was opened and her signature was there next to her room number, but there was a man's signature opposite her mother's room number! Frantic, Kay demanded to go to her mother's room. The manager reluctantly agreed just to be rid of her. As she stepped into the room and looked around, she turned ashen and gasped. Walls that had been rose-patterned silk were now light blue with yellow daisies; white cotton curtains hung where she knew there had been plumb velvet drapes. Kay demanded an explanation. All she got was blank stares and shrugged shoulders.

What Kay was not told was that her mother had bubonic plague, the scourge of Europe. The doctor and hotel manager immediately realized that if the public learned there was a case of the plague in Paris, the city would be vacated in a flash, the Exposition would collapse and the hotel ruined forever. The only recourse they saw was to invent an elaborate ruse to cover up reality. What became of Kay's mother? That depends on which version of the tale you read.

Now leap ahead to the last week of January 2011. I had decided to upgrade my computing with a new Dell Vostro machine running Windows 7. Computers in the Dell Vostro product line are intended for small business users, so they offer a broader selection of hardware and software than general-purpose consumer models. Vostro 430 computers have been available for a few years and they are quite good, but while perusing them, I discovered a new model, the 460, that uses Intel's brand new "Sandy Bridge" processor and Cougar Point chip set for performance well beyond the storied Pentium.

Dell's presentation of available options is so convenient to use I added an icon to the desktop of my current computer that enabled going directly to Vostro 460 descriptions with a simple double click of the mouse. Over the next several days I visited the site frequently, each time reviewing options and making printouts of various configurations for further consideration. By the end of the month final decisions had been made in the twenty-five categories of choices offered. On the morning of Monday January 31st I double-clicked the desktop 460 icon and placed an order.

Although my order had been confirmed I decided in the afternoon of the following day to review promotional material for the Vostro 460. I double-clicked the trusty 460 desktop icon but, instead of being directed to the 460 page, this terse message appeared: *"Dell has removed this page."* Taken aback, I then went to Google and searched for <dell 460 computer> but that only yielded specs for an Alienware gaming computer being marketed by Dell. Next it was to the Dell Home Page, where I entered "Vostro 460" in the Search window That took me to Vostro 430 computers. *Nothing I tried would bring up the 460 page!* By now I was beginning to feel like Kay when she returned to the hotel to find all trace of her mother eradicated. I had to face reality: ***Dell had thoroughly scrubbed away every vestige of their new Vostro 460 from their website!***

The only recourse was to navigate a dreaded phone menu to Dell Customer Service. After getting bounced among four different reps, each speaking a barely decipherable dialect, I was finally transferred to Kirk in the sales department. Kirk told me to do exactly what I had already done a dozen times. When he finally tried it himself and also failed to find the Vostro 460 page, he put me on hold while he conferred with his manager (but not until I got his number in case the line dropped – I've been there before). Kirk returned with the vague report that yes, the Vostro 460 products had indeed been withdrawn, but he did not know why. Later that evening I went back Google and searched <intel sandy bridge problem>. That returned an Intel Press Release, dated earlier that very day, which explained there was a problem with a Sandy Bridge

support chip and production was halted, not to be resumed until the end of February, with full production in April. The veil was finally lifted.

Post Script: Five days later the Vostro 460 surfaced once again on a Dell web page, but although pictures of it were shown, a prominent notice stated, "The 460 is temporarily unavailable." One can only imagine the chaos and forehead slapping that took place at Dell and other OEMs, not to mention Intel, when they realized the magnitude of the problems confronting them to rework products in the field and correct the defective chip. Estimated cost to Intel alone is \$900 million!

I have to admit that their problems make my inconvenience seem somewhat insignificant.

And the answer is ...



Radio Telephony for Amateurs, by Charles Stuart Ballantine, David McKay Company, 1923.

Early ham radio operators assembled an array of homemade and manufactured equipment to communicate with each other. In 1923 ham radio operator David Asbury's home station included a Westinghouse RA/DA receiver (on the far right), and a homemade transmitter.

Dues are due! If you haven't renewed your PMRC membership yet contact Dick W3RM now to continue receiving all the benefits of membership... like the *Blurb*!

The repeater antennas need some TLC and it ain't gonna be cheap! We're looking for fundraising ideas to replenish the coffers after repairs are paid for. To contribute ideas, or cash, please contact any officer or board member listed on page2.



For Sale

6 foot telephone relay rack on castors,
Optoelectronics FC-50 frequency counter,
ARRL handbooks 1933 - onward
Kreco 10 meter coaxial vertical antenna,
Antique headphones,
Multimeters, old technical books and parts.

Contact Tom Bohlander WA3KLR, 215-536-1331

Also for sale

Kenwood TH-215 2 meter 5 watt HT
PL decoder installed (this was option when new)
Speaker Microphone
Cigarette lighter DC power cord
Drop in quick charger
Asking \$75.00

Hustler 2 meter gain antenna G7-144
OAL 192 inches
with documentation Asking \$ 10.00

Contact Rick Spencer N3FD

Phone number available in Blurb directory

Please feel free to forward to other clubs of which you are a member

March at PMRC ...

2nd Wed – Board Meeting
 4th Fri – Hug a GI day
 6th Sun – WU3I NCS
 9th Wed – General Meeting
 12th Sat – VE session 0900
 13th Sun – KC2PMW NCS
 20th Sun – KB3IV NCS
 Spring Equinox 23:21 UTC
 24th Thurs – VE Test Session
 26th Sat – Make Up Your Own Holiday Day
 27th Sun – W3STW NCS

And don't forget the **ARES** net every
 Sunday night at 2100L and the new **Digital**
Net Tuesdays at 1900L, both on W3QV/R

--... ..-- --. . -. --... ..--

First Class Mail

Check out this rope for your antenna project –

3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord

This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!

This is a gorgeous solid braid perfect for dipole antennas. Very low stretch and strong. Will withstand the weather & sun for 7 to 10 years.

PRICE \$10.00 PER 100 FEET
SOLD IN 100 FOOT LOTS
CONTACT STEVE WU3I AT
WU3I@ARRL.NET

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
 310 Saw Mill Lane, Apt 6D, Horsham PA 19044

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